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The
**PSYCHOLOGICAL
RECORD . . .**

JUNE, 1941
Vol. IV No. 22

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION for PSYCHOLOGICAL
LITERATURE

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THE PRINCPIA PRESS, INC.
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Pice of this number, 35 cents

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

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The science of psychology as we know it today is the product of scarcely more than half a century. Nonetheless, its literature is very extensive; the number of titles probably approximating 200,000. In addition to its quantity, psychological literature is complex also because of the significance of pertinent material found in many related fields. Probably no other science offers quite the same difficulties in respect to its literature. From a strictly practical point of view there is necessity for a system of classification of psychological literature which recognizes its unique complexities.

The general library classification schemes, especially the Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress systems, are completely inadequate to handle psychological literature in a specialized library. Both of these systems were developed when psychology was considered a minor branch of philosophy; it was classed as such and in the decades since these systems have remained unaffected by the complete change in the nature of psychology.

In 1932 the Dewey schedules appended a makeshift arrangement of psychological classification upon which I have commented elsewhere.¹ A special classification for psychology was devised by Warren primarily for use in the *Psychological Index* and was used in that journal and later in the *Psychological Abstracts* with many modifications in successive volumes.² Two other brief schemes have been published by Poffenberger³ and by Willoughby.⁴

¹ C. M. Louttit. The Dewey Decimal System and psychology. *J. Gener. Psychol.* 1933, 9:234-238.

² C. M. Louttit. *Handbook of psychological literature*. Bloomington, Indiana. Principia Press, 1933, p. 132.

³ A. T. Poffenberger. A library classification for books on psychology. *Psychol. Bull.* 1917, 14:328-331.

⁴ R. R. Willoughby. A classification for psychology. *J. Gener. Psychol.* 1932, 7:179-184.

I have carefully considered the schedules of these various systems and have tried to classify literature in them. However, as none of them was satisfactory the present system was devised.

Because of the many advantages of a decimal method of classification the original scheme was on such a base. This was started about 1929 and applied to several hundred titles in the author's personal collection. In 1931 a provisional mimeographed edition⁵ was published and distributed privately to a number of psychologists and librarians with a request for comments. Very few comments were received, however. Letters from psychologists protested ignorance of classification methods, and those from librarians protested that such detail was unnecessary for psychology, thus indicating an ignorance of psychology. One outstanding exception must be noted. Dr. Edwin G. Boring undertook to make a complete revision of the section on Sensation and Perception. In the present edition this section is based upon his kind work, but because of a number of changes the present author alone must be held responsible for its imperfections.

Further experience with the purely decimal edition indicated that psychology could not be conveniently forced into ten major divisions. Therefore, the primary base was changed to the 26 letters of the alphabet of which only 13 are used. Subdivisions within each letter are on a strictly decimal basis. The revised schedules, of which this paper represents only a condensation, have been constantly revised during the past ten years in the light of actual use. The classification has been used for the author's personal professional library of books and reprints comprising some 4,000 titles, as well as for manuscript material. A continuing bibliography of clinical psychology now containing over 5,000 cards has also been arranged according to the schedules. Currently the material in the Indiana University Psychological Clinic library and the Department reprint library are also being classified. Thus this scheme has been found satisfactory in practice.

⁵C. M. Louttit. A proposed decimal classification for psychological literature. Bloomington, Indiana, author. 1932, 31 p.

The major divisions of this system are allotted to the first thirteen letters of the alphabet as follows:

- A General Works
- B Sensation and Perception
- C Response, Will
- D Cognitive functions
- E Affective functions
- F Personality
- G Abnormal psychology
- H Social psychology
- I Applied psychology
- J Child psychology
- K Animal psychology
- L Biological Science
- M General Science

In the tables which follow the detailed contents of these divisions are set forth. An explanatory word is required for the classes L and M. These were entirely pragmatic additions, necessary to take care of a large amount of material actually in the collections originally classified. The subdivisions here are far from satisfactory from a logical or bibliographical point of view. It is quite possible, however, to adopt the proper sections of the Dewey Decimal System to these letters (or to additional ones) when desirable.

The extent of condensation of the tables here published is evident in the comparison in number of subdivisions. In the extensive schedule (still in manuscript form and not complete in all details) there are over 2,250 classes, while the present table has slightly more than 425 classes. However, except in a very extensive and detailed collection, subdivisions to the right of the decimal point are probably not necessary. In a few instances such classes have been included in these tables. Expense prohibits publishing the full tables even in their present incomplete form.

The use of the tables should be entirely clear. Under each letter are given the first ten classes, and under each of these the

second ten divisions. Inasmuch as all ten digits are not always utilized there are a number of gaps. It is advised that before attempting to use the tables they be read over carefully. The alphabetical index, in the interest of economy, includes only the major subdivisions. However, once the more general class to which a title belongs is determined, greater detail may be found by referring to that section of the tables.

Form division. Certain classes of material may occur in every subject so a set of special form subdivisions is used with any other number. These divisions are:

- 01 theory
- 02 methods
- 03 collections
- 04 periodicals
- 05 reprints
- 06 history

These numbers are to be placed to the right of the decimal point with or without the zero depending upon the digits immediately to the left of the decimal. For example, a periodical on applied psychology would be I00.5, another on mental deficiency would be G10.5. A collection of reprints on speech disorders is D42.904 and a history of mental hospitals is G87.07.

A, GENERAL WORKS

A 00 GENERAL

01, definition and scope; 02, philosophical problems; 03, mind-body problem; 04, consciousness; 05, relation to life and society.

A 10 THEORY, SYSTEMS, TEXTS

11, before 1900; 12, texts, general and popular works; 13, subjective treatments (structural, functional, gestalt, purposive, psychoanalysis); 14, objective treatments (behaviorism, interactionism).

A 20 METHODS, GENERAL

21, scientific method in general; 22, biological methods; 23, experimental methods; 24, apparatus, laboratory equipment and operation; 28, terminology; 29, study and teaching (incl. workbooks, manuals, etc.).

A 30 STATISTICS**A 40 COLLECTIONS**

41, encyclopedias and dictionaries; 42, annuals and year books; 43, anniversary volumes, *Festschrifte*; 44, essays, collected papers; 45, tables; 46, directories (does not include biographical directories which go in A 72); 49, bibliography; 49.2, special subject bibliography (followed by subject class number).

A 50 ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

61, American associations; 62, foreign associations; 63, philosophical associations; 64, scientific associations; 65, institutions; 66, international congresses; 69, others.

A 70 HISTORY

71, rare books (use for items which because of rarity, value, or association it is desired to keep together; subdivision may be made by regular class numbers); 72, biography; 73, chronological; 74, European; 75, American; 76, other regions; 78, philosophy, history of; 79, science, history of.

B, SENSATION and PERCEPTION**B 00 GENERAL AND COLLECTIVE**

01, classification and relations; 02, attributes; 03, specific energies; 04, synesthesia; 08, collective, general; 09, disorders, collective and general.

B 10 SOMESTHESIA

11, cutaneous; 12, kinesthetic; 13, static senses; 14, visceral senses.

B 20 AUDITION

21, physiological acoustics; 22, auditory sensations; 23, binaural phenomena; 29, disorders of hearing.

B 30 VISION

31, physiological optics; 32, visual sensation; 33, special visual phenomena; 34, eye movements (except reading in D 44); 39, disorders of vision.

B 40 CHEMICAL SENSES

41, taste; 42, smell.

B 50 PERCEPTION

51, Weber-Fechner law; 52, qualitative; 53, rhythm; 54, motion; 55, weight and pressure; 56, gestalt qualität; 59, disorders.

B 60 SPACE PERCEPTION

61, somesthetic; 62, auditory; 63, visual; 64, chemical senses (taste patterns, olfactory volume).

B 70 TIME PERCEPTION**B 90 PARAPSYCHOLOGY, ESP.****C, REACTION, RESPONSE****C 00 GENERAL**

01, motor performance; 02, motor tests; 03, work.

C 10 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

11, anatomy, general; 12, anthropometry; 13, physiology, general; 14, osteology and syndesmology; 15, myology; 16, neurology; 17, angiology; 18, endocrinology; 19, splanchnology and skin.

C 20 FACTORS AFFECTING RESPONSE

21, fatigue; 22, rest; 23, food and fasting; 24, drugs; 25, external physical conditions (illumination, ventilation, climate); 26, radiant energy (electricity, radio waves).

C 30**C 40****C 50 INNATE BEHAVIOR**

51, reflexes, general; 52, specific reflexes; 53, electrical phenomena of the skin, P. G. R.; 55, motor activity (walking, handedness); 56, instincts; 57, specific instincts; 59, physiological conditions as drives.

C 60**C 70 SUGGESTION, HYPNOTISM****C 80 MOTIVATION****C 90 WILL, VOLITION****D, COGNITIVE ACTIVITIES****D 00 GENERAL**

D 10 LEARNING AND MEMORY

11, memorizing, acquiring; 12, factors influencing (methods, materials, psychological factors, physical bodily conditions, external environmental conditions, incentives, inhibition); 13, retention; 14, recall, reproduction; 15, recognition; 16, reminiscence, reverie; 19, disorders of memory.

D 20 IMAGERY, IMAGINATION

21, imagery types; 22, eidetic imagery; 25, imagination.

D 30 THINKING, MENTAL WORK**D 40 LANGUAGE**

41, gesture; 42, speech; 42.9, speech disorders; 43, handwriting; 44, reading (see also I 13 for these as school subjects).

D 50**D 60 ATTENTION**

61, factors affecting; 62, characteristics; 69, appreciation.

D 70 INTELLIGENCE

71, nature and distribution; 72, testing; 73, test construction; 74, individual verbal tests; 75, individual non-verbal; 76, group tests; 77, pre-school tests; 79, others.

E, AFFECTIVE ACTIVITIES**E 00 AFFECTIVE REACTIONS, EMOTIONS****E 10 EMOTION**

11, visceral changes; 12, psychogalvanic phenomena; 13, facial expressions; 14, overt behavior; 15, vocal expression; 16, tests for emotion.

E 20 SPECIFIC EMOTIONS

21, fear; 22, anger; 23, love; 24, excitement; 29, others.

E 30 SENTIMENTS, MOODS**E 40****E 50 FEELINGS**

51, kinds, attributes; 52, sensory influences; 53, non-sensory influences; 54, special problems.

F, PERSONALITY**F 00 PERSONALITY****F 10 NATURE OF PERSONALITY**

F 20 PERSONALITY TESTS

21, questionnaires and schedules; 25, Rorschach test; 26, other projective tests.

G, ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**G 00 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY**

01, classification, general; 02, diagnosis, general; 03, etiology, general; 04, symptomatology, general; 05, research in general; 07, relations, social, etc.; 09, pathological states (not otherwise classified).

G 10 MENTAL DEFICIENCY, FEEBLEMINDEDNESS

10.21, diagnostic methods, general; 11, types, include degrees and clinical; 12, etiology; 13, research, physiological, anatomical and psychological; 14, social relations and problems; 15, treatment and care.

G 20 CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

21, spinal cord; 22, peripheral nerves; 23, cerebrum; 24, cerebellum and basal ganglia; 25, drugs and toxins, neuropathology; 26, tics, spasms, myoclonias; 27, epilepsy and the convulsive states; 28, autonomic nervous system; 29, others (migraine, tetany, tetanus, rabies).

G 30 SOMATIC PSYCHOSES

31, somatic disease; 32, traumatic; 33, endocrine; 34, toxic; 35, senile psychoses.

G 40 PSYCHONEUROSES

41, hysteria; 42, neurasthenia; 43, psychasthenia; 44, anxiety neuroses; 45, traumatic.

G 50 SCHIZOPHRENIA**G 60 MANIC-DEPRESSIVE PSYCHOSIS****G 70 PARANOIA AND PARANOID CONDITIONS****G 80 THERAPEUTICS AND CARE**

81, psychotherapeutics in general; 82, psychoanalysis as therapy; 83, suggestion; 84, reeducation; 85, physiotherapy; 86, medico-surgical therapy; 87, hospitals; 89, medical jurisprudence.

G 90 CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND MENTAL HYGIENE

91, behavior clinics; 92, clinical psychology; 94, mental

hygiene; 95, child guidance, child psychiatry; 96, psychiatric social work, including visiting teacher.

H, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

H 00 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

01, groups (mobs, clubs); 02, measurement (attitudes, behavior, conditions); 03, social influences (propaganda).

H 10 SOCIOLOGY

H 20 ANTHROPOLOGY, ETHNIC PSYCHOLOGY

21, ethnology; 22, archeology, material culture; 23, race psychology; 24, physical anthropology.

H 30 RELIGION

31, psychology of religion; 32, worship (rituals, rites, ceremonies); 33, philosophy of religion (incl. theology); 34, non-Christian religions; 35, Christianity; 36, religious education.

H 40 FAMILY

41, love and courtship behavior (incl. sex behavior of humans); 42, family organization; 43, home and housing; 44, parenthood (incl. obstetrics, eugenics, birth control, sterilization); 46, woman.

H 50

H 60 SOCIAL PATHOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK

61, social work; 62, poverty and dependency; 65, social hygiene.

H 70 CRIMINOLOGY

71, causes of crime; 72, study of offenders; 73, criminal law and criminal justice; 74, penology; 75, crime prevention; 6, specific crimes.

H 80

H 90 SOCIAL SCIENCES

91, government, political science; 92, economics; 93, history; 94, ethics.

I, APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

I 00 APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY, GENERAL

- I 10 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATION
 11, educational psychology; 12, educational tests and measurements; 13, special subjects; 14, classroom and school management; 15, special types of schools; 16, teaching and administrative personnel; 17, school administration; 19, student personnel.
- I 20 PERSONNEL AND OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
 21, vocational guidance; 22, specific occupations; 23, employment; 24, worker's welfare; 25, employer-employee relations, labor relations; 26, mental hygiene of industry.
- I 30 INDUSTRIAL PSYCHOLOGY
 31, industrial management; 32, worker's efficiency; 33, working conditions; 34, industrial accidents; 35, specific occupations.
- I 40 BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY
 41, consumer; 42, marketing; 43, advertising; 44, selling.
- I 50 PROFESSIONAL APPLICATIONS
 51, medicine (see also G 00); 52, law; 54, art (incl. plastic and graphic arts, literature, drama, music).

J, CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

- J 00 CHILD PSYCHOLOGY, GENERAL
- J 10 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY
 11, anatomy; 12, physiology; 13, anthropometry; 14, growth; 15, posture; 16, nutrition; 19, pediatrics.
- J 20 SENSORY PROCESSES
 21, somesthetic; 22, hearing; 23, vision; 24, taste and smell; 25, perception.
- J 30 REACTION
 31, native behavior and early coordinations; 32, motor development; 33, learning and memory; 34, attention; 35, thinking; 36, emotions; 39, special activities (play, art, interests).
- J 40 CHILD CARE AND TRAINING
 41, infant and maternity care; 42, parent manuals; 43,

factors influencing development (home, family, etc.); 44, methods, general; 45, special topics (elimination, eating, speech, sleep, dreams); 46, character and moral development.

J 50 SOCIAL PROBLEMS

51, social behavior, socialization; 52, social groups (organized, gangs, friendship); 53, child welfare, general; 54, dependent child; 55, child labor; 56, influence of social institutions, e.g., movies, radio, etc.

J 60 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

61, factors and causes; 62, methods of study; 63, case studies; 64, boys; 65, girls; 66, treatment (courts, institutions, parole and probation); 67, statistics; 68, specific delinquencies.

J 70 EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

71, physical defects; 72, backward (not to include feeble-minded which go in G 10); 73, superior; 74, behavior problems; 76, special talents and defects (in school subjects reading, arithmetic, etc., may go in I 13); 77, nervous and mental diseases of children (may go in G 00).

J 80 SEXES AND STAGES

81, boys; 82, girls; 83, twins; 84, infancy; 85, preschool; 86, childhood; 87, adolescence.

J 90 ADULT AND SENESCENCE

91, sensory processes; 92, motor action; 93, intelligence; 94, learning and memory; 99, social problems.

K, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

K 00 ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY, GENERAL

K 10 ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, EMBRYOLOGY

K 20 RECEPTOR FUNCTIONS

21, somesthetic; 22, hearing; 23, vision; 24, chemical senses; 25, perception.

K 30 NATIVE BEHAVIOR

31, tropisms; 32, reflexes; 33, instinctive behavior (reproduction, care of young, feeding, shelter, homing and migrations, locomotion, sound production); 34, social

- behavior; 35, drives and motives; 36, emotions.
- K 40 HABIT AND HIGHER PLASTIC ADJUSTMENTS**
41, learning; 42, ideation, insight; 43, memory; 44, neurological correlates.
- K 50 BEHAVIOR CLASSED BY SPECIES**
(May include behavior descriptions, naturalistic studies, etc., if work on different forms is to be kept together)
51, invertebrates; 52, protozoa; 53, lower metazoa; 54, molluscs; 55, articulates; 56, vertebrates; 57, fish; 58, reptiles; 59, birds.
- K 60 MAMMALS**
61, monotremes and marsupials; 62, edentates and insectivores; 63, rodents; 64, chiroptera; 65, cetacea; 66, prosimidea; 67, ungulates; 68, carnivores; 69, primates.
- K 70 ECOLOGY**
71, physical; 72, animal; 73, plant.

L, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

(To include works which do not fit into classes A to K)

- L 00 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE, GENERAL**
01, evolution; 02, heredity.
- L 10 ZOOLOGY, GENERAL**
- L 20 ZOOLOGY, BY GROUPS**
(By taxonomic groups as in K 50 and K 60. Experimental zoology and physiological zoology are provided for in K. This section to include strictly taxonomic or anatomic works, but may contain material of any nature relating to specific classes.)
- L 30**
- L 40**
- L 50 BOTANY**
- L 60 BACTERIOLOGY**
(To include all pathogenic organisms) 64, protozoa; 65, viruses.
- L 70 MEDICINE**
71, diseases; 72, therapeutics; 73, hygiene; 79, veterinary medicine.

M, SCIENCE

(To include science not otherwise provided for)

M 00 SCIENCE, GENERAL**M 10 MATHEMATICS**

11, arithmetic; 12, algebra; 13, geometry and trigonometry; 14, calculus.

M 20 PHYSICS

21, atomic and subatomic; 22, electricity; 23, mechanics; 24, heat; (for light see B 30 and for sound see B 20).

M 30 CHEMISTRY

31, inorganic; 32, organic.

M 40 ASTRONOMY**M 50 GEOLOGY****INDEX**

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- Instincts, C 56—C57
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- Kinesthetic senses, B 12
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- Learning, D 10
 - animal, K 41
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- Methods, general, A 20
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- Mind-body problem, A 03
- Moods, E 30
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- Motor performance, C 00
- Nerve disorders, G 20
- Neurology, anatomy, C 16
 - clinical, G 20
- Occupational psychology, I 20
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- Parapsychology, B 90
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 - child, J 25
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